

V I S I O N S

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Vision:

The act or power of seeing
Sight

The special sense by which
the qualities of an object
(as color, luminosity, shape
and size) constituting its
appearance are perceived and
mediated by the eye

V ision:

The act or power of imagination
Mode of seeing or conceiving
Unusual discernment or foresight



There is only one international organization which has adopted as its mission the prevention and treatment of blinding retinal degenerative diseases and the hope of vision through vision

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

While research into the workings of the eye have been ongoing for thousands of years, it is only within the last ten years that a formalized concentrated approach to retinal degenerative diseases has been instituted. With the formation of the National RP Foundation in 1971 and the dedication of the Berman-Gund lab in 1974, research specifically geared for this one family of blinding eye disorders began.

The field of medical research is much like the corporate business arena. To succeed in either involves a great deal of personal and professional risk and large investments of both time and money. In the end, there are no guarantees that either effort will succeed.

In ten short years, the field of research into retinal degenerative diseases has grown a hun-

dredfold. The RP Foundation has been the driving force behind this growth. By providing direction and coordination through the leadership of its Scientific Advisory Board, an expanding series of research projects have been undertaken in an organized, focused approach—each subsequent project building on the success or failure of the previous one.

These individual investigative efforts have all been undertaken within the context of an extraordinary spirit of cooperation. Case information, medical histories, and results are all shared and discussed and evaluated—in almost constant dialogue.

The Foundation's philosophy to provide "seed" money (initial investment capital) for promising research efforts has proven successful in triggering federal support through the National Eye Institute. Each dollar raised by

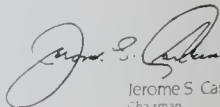
the Foundation has actually produced additional dollars for retinal research.

Now with this report as we look back on the first ten years, we see major accomplishments:

- a growth in the number of talented eye specialists who have dedicated their work, their ideas and techniques to these problems
- a revolution in the testing of individuals to diagnose retinal degenerative diseases
- a greater awareness of the number of people who are affected, the needs of these individuals and their ability to persevere.

Yet with these developments, we are impatient with the rate of our progress—and we will remain impatient as long as hundreds of thousands of people continue to lose their vision to these insidious eye diseases.

As we enter our second decade, our goal continues to be "the discovery of the cause, prevention and treatment of retinitis pigmentosa and other inherited retinal degenerations." In order to achieve this goal, the Foundation must broaden substantially its sources of financial support. This is our commitment for the eighties.



Jerome S. Cardin
Chairman



Gordon Gund
Vice Chairman



Bernard Berman
President



Electron microscopes provide the ultimate in sophisticated analysis of retinal structure

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 10. National Public Affairs Committee
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Ocular examinations with specialized instruments provide specialized clinical information on patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa and related retinal degenerations

With this annual report, the RP Foundation begins its 11th year of operation. While most organizations arrive at such thresholds with triumph, ours, as might be expected, is a bitter-sweet distinction. We are proud of the distance we have come but disappointed that our quest for such difficult answers is still incomplete. Our initial zeal and enthusiasm for success has been replaced with a determined realization that continuing a methodical approach will work and our goals will be achieved!

Our initial vision has been clarified with additional research knowledge and refocused by our commitment to succeed.

We have reaffirmed the fact that the multi-disciplined research approach wherein researchers in various fields share their knowledge does produce results. Increasingly, our researchers con-

tinue to be recognized for their creative, industrious efforts in their respective fields.

During this past year, the Foundation's achievements include the following:

- A new Director of Development was hired to develop and expand a national fundraising effort for corporations and foundations.
- A Human Services Program which established new goals and dimensions and increased the national registry substantially.
- An extensive coordinated Public Awareness Program which reached an audience in excess of 140 million people during the past year.

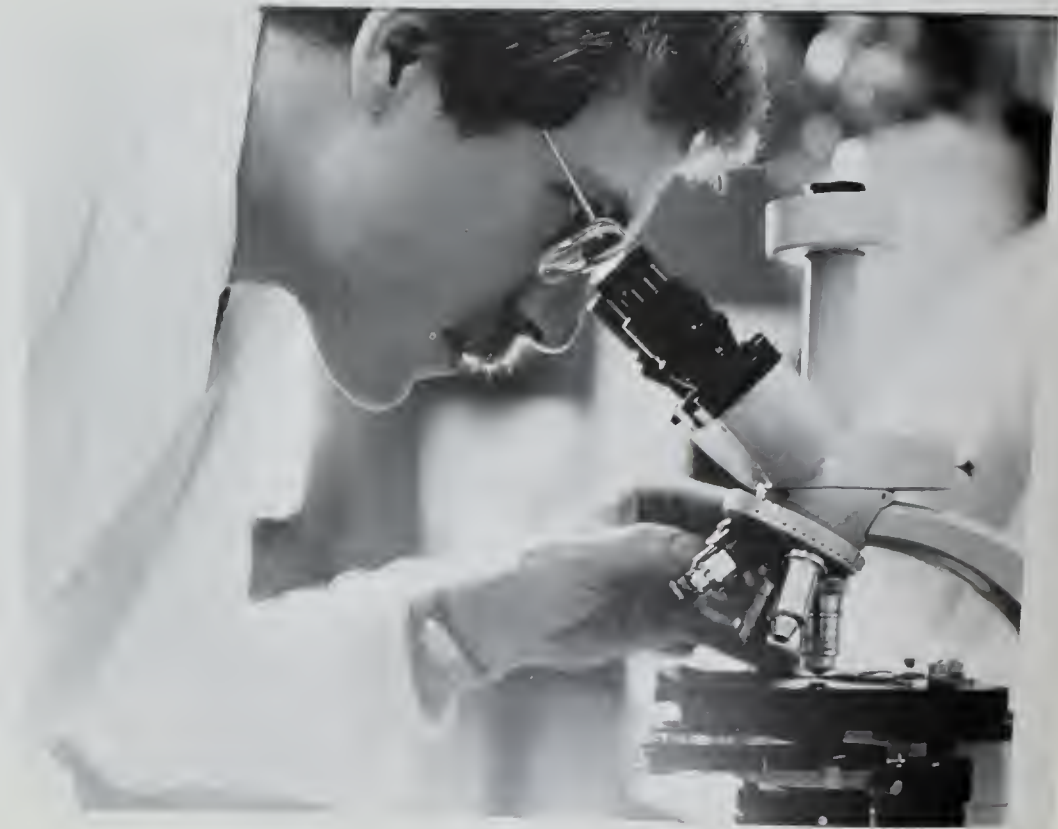
No Executive Director's report would be complete without the appropriate word of thanks to

the 22,000 volunteers working around the country, the national staff and field representatives who assist them and the National Board of Trustees.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dennis L. Hartenstine".

Dennis L. Hartenstine
Executive Director

Through careful study and experimentation with ocular cells and tissues, research centers all over the world continue to detect clues to the mechanisms of retinal degeneration



Significant progress towards understanding the causes of retinal degenerative diseases has been made by the RP Foundation research program to date. This section of the report prepared by Dr. Alan L. Davies, M.D., Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, describes much of the important work contributed to this significant progress.

1 GYRATE ATROPHY TREATMENT TRIAL

Gyrate Atrophy is a somewhat rare form of retinitis pigmentosa. Recently, RP researchers have discovered that the cause of this condition is linked to a defective enzyme. As a result, a trial treatment program based on diet regulation has been developed.

2 RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA PIGMENT EPITHELIUM RESEARCH

The retina is lined by a spe-

cialized cell layer called the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE). Through recent studies using animals, it is now known that the actual fault in retinal degeneration occurs in this specialized layer of cells rather than in the rods and cones of the retina itself. A delicate, difficult process has been undertaken successfully in three RP Centers to study the RPE's biochemistry.

3 EARLY DIAGNOSIS

Pioneering work in examination, classification, and diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa and allied hereditary retinal degenerations has been done in several of the RP centers. These efforts are crucial to progress toward the understanding of the causes of hereditary retinal degenerations.

4 TAURINE

An essential amino acid for vision. Although its specific func-

tion is not known, taurine is present in a normal retina in high concentration. When diet is deficient in taurine, cats progressively lose their vision. Simultaneously, electroretinographic changes occur which are similar in several essential respects to those that occur in retinitis pigmentosa. The search continues for a link between taurine and some forms of hereditary retinal degeneration.

5 VISUAL ACUITY

Most of us equate visual acuity with the ability to read Snellen letters—the familiar "E" charts used by eye doctors the world over. Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation supported eye research has recently shown that performance on the "E" chart can be deceptive. Providing an accurate measurement of an individual's ability to see low contrasts is important in the

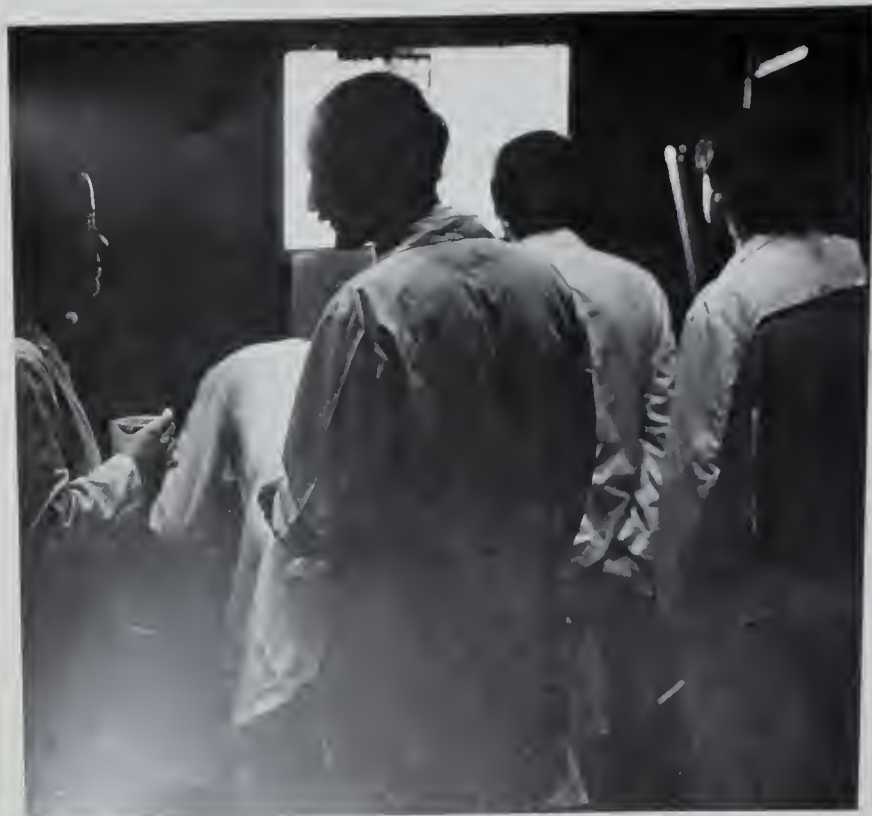
evaluation of that person's disability and in planning a reasonable program to overcome it.

6 BIOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS

In a successful attempt to make the most efficient use of donor eyes, scientists at one RP center perfected a "button" technique. By this means a single donor eye serves as a source for thirty samples each of which in turn can be subject to biochemical analysis. Needless to say, this technique magnifies the value of a donor eye greatly, permitting as it does a marked increase in the efficiency of use.

CENTER GRANTS

		1980-81 Grants	1981-82 Commitments			1980-81 Grants	1981-82 Commitments
The Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degen- erations at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary Harvard Medical School Boston, MA	Eliot L. Berson, MD, Principal Investigator, Ross B. Edwards, Ph.D., Bernard Rosner, Ph.D., Susan Y. Schmidt, Ph.D., Michael A. Sandberg, Ph.D., R. Bruce Szamier, Ph.D.	\$110,373	\$131,146	College of Physicians & Sur- geons, Columbia University New York City, NY	John S. Deegan, MD, Principal Investigator, Mary Flood, Ph.D., James Hale,	\$ 65,451	\$ 87,000
The New York University Medical Center, New York, NY	Ronald Carr, MD, Principal Investigator, Harris Ripps, Ph.D., Irwin Siegel, Ph.D., Manoucher Shakib, MD	\$ 84,100	\$ 43,823	University of Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, Chicago, IL	Gerard J. Fishman, MD, Principal Investigator, Jose Cunha-Vaz, MD, Roger I. Klingaman, Ph.D., Rockefeller, S. J. Young, Ph.D.	\$ 32,637	\$ 40,000
The Wilmer Institute of The Johns Hopkins Hospital Baltimore, MD	Daniel Finkestein, MD, Principal Investigator, Fred Fitzke, B.Sc., James McDonald, Ph.D., Robert Massof, Ph.D., Irene Maumenee, MD, Magda Reissig, Ph.D., O. Simmel, MD	\$ 79,252	\$ 75,547	Medical College of Virginia Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Richmond, VA	Walter F. Nance, MD, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, John Boughman, Ph.D., Principal Investigator	\$ 51,923	\$ 45,996
The Jules Stein Institute of The University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	Debra L. Farber, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Dean Bok, Ph.D., David Chase, Ph.D., Michael O. Hall, Ph.D., John Heckenlively, MD, Ph.D., Richard Lofley, Ph.D., Robert Meyers-Elliott, Ph.D.	\$ 49,894	\$ 94,578	Other Activities:			
				Animal Facility	For the acquisition, care and dis- tribution of dogs with hereditary retinoid degenerations. The dogs are kept at Federated Medical Resources, Honeybrook, PA.	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000
Institute of Ophthalmology University of London Moorfields Eye Hospital London, England	John Marshall, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Alan Bird, MD, F.R.C.S., Principal Investigator, William Clover, W. Ernst, David Faulkner, Barry Jay, M.D., Kevin P. D. Towell, Mary Visden	\$102,595	\$100,000	Scientific Workshop	Clinicians were invited to partici- pate at a workshop held in Sarasota, Florida, discussing conformity in clinical testing and diagnosis.	\$ 17,000	\$ 12,000
Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Hermann Eye Center, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, TX	Joe G. Hollyfield, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Charles A. Garcia, MD, Principal Investigator, Robert J. Anderson, Ph.D., Scott E. Casper, Ph.D., David R. Lee, Ph.D., James M. Hollyfield, MD, Frank Foster, MD, Donnell L. Ph.D., R. Lindner, MD, Edith Gleason, MD	\$127,906	\$147,156	Career Development Award:			
				Continued research on	Neurochemical regulation of photoreceptor and photoreceptor interactions in the retina.	\$ 32,624	\$ 43,200



Scientific Advisory Board

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Richard M. H. H. H.

Ruth H. H. H. H.

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Richard, John, M.D.

George, Alan, Ph.D.

Richard, Wayne, Ph.D.

Specialists in electrophysiology, anatomy, biochemistry and genetics work together in a multi-disciplined effort to explain the complex mechanisms involved in retinal function and deterioration.





The RP Foundation has established Diagnostic laboratories specializing in electrophysiology, psychophysics, and photography in an effort to precisely monitor the functions of the retina and further explore special visual fields

The needs of individuals who suddenly discover that they are gradually losing their vision from degenerative diseases of the retina grow with every different daily encounter. The Foundation's Human Services program was developed to help these people to better deal with the difficulties which are unique to this group of progressive hereditary visual disorders. Through this Human Services program, individual questions are answered directly, service referrals are researched and developed and a large professional educational program is maintained. The Foundation's confidential national registry is periodically surveyed for needs assessment and updated for research treatment information. Supporting the needs of the visually handicapped population in legislative forums is a major component of the Foundation's

Human Services program. Through such efforts, the Foundation has helped obtain third party payment of the ITT Night Vision Aid in a number of states.

Through a major outreach program, screening centers for the Night Vision Aid have expanded from 13 to 17 in the last year. This increases the opportunity for individuals to obtain screening of low vision devices such as the ITT Night Vision Aid.

A cooperative program with the Corning Glass Works Corporation has resulted in the availability of new sunglasses for the patient with retinitis pigmentosa.

For the first time, a survey was undertaken to determine the unique needs of young people who have retinal degenerative diseases.

Also through the Human Services department, plans were developed for a national confer-

ence which would draw together for the first time, professionals and researchers in the field and individuals from around the world.

A brochure geared to the newly diagnosed RP patient was developed and distributed to all eye doctors in the country. As a result, hundreds of new patients were introduced to the Foundation during the latter part of the fiscal year.

The dialogue maintained through the Human Services program is essential to both the growth of the Foundation and the expansion of its research program.

VOLUNTEER NETWORK

Having vision in research programs and in design of an organizational structure to combat an elusive problem like retinitis pigmentosa is of little consequence without the manpower to implement them. Fortunately, the RP Foundation has, through its 60 affiliate groups, mobilized a workforce of over 22,000 dedicated volunteers. The volunteers provide the energy, cooperation and strength for the special event fundraisers, the health fairs, the bike-a-thons and countless other RP events. At the same time, they provide morale and emotional support by acting as information and referral units for newly diagnosed people with retinitis pigmentosa, Usher's syndrome or macular degeneration.

Importantly these volunteer hours liberate the RP Foundation from the necessity of a staff operation thus freeing up more dollars

for critical research projects. A cooperative relationship between the national office staff, field representatives and the local volunteer chapters is essential to the success of the Foundation's mission.

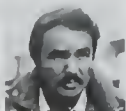
Over 22,000 volunteers throughout 42 local Chapters raise funds through special benefit programs, membership drives and federated campaigns.







Ron Glass



Burt Reynolds



Loni Anderson



Polly Holliday



Katherine Helmond



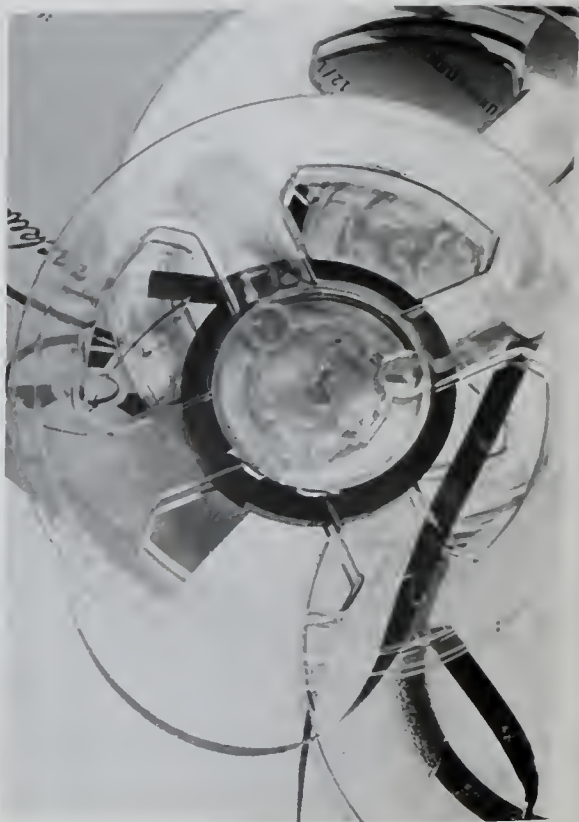
Barbara Eden



Gregory Harrison



Jamie Farr





What good is vision in research if it's kept secret? The Foundation's commitment to sharing information about RP research within the scientific community as well as to the general public is unique.

Complementary to the professional education program is the Foundation's national public awareness program. During the last year, Polly Holliday (TV's "Flo") accepted the role of National Honorary Chairman and in this capacity appeared on a number of talk shows, including The John Davidson Show (Los Angeles), "Panorama" (Washington, D.C.) and "People Are Talking" (Baltimore). She was also featured in a number of newspaper and magazine articles. For the first time, one of the Foundation's public service ads (featuring Polly Holliday) appeared in Time and Newsweek magazines and re-

ceived national circulation totaling 7 million people.

The Foundation, through the cooperation of the cable USA Network, received TV coverage during the NHL Ice Hockey Stanley Cup playoffs. All Star Bobby Smith and General Manager Lou Nanne of the Minnesota North Stars cooperated in the production of specially prepared spots.

The National Football League accepted the RP Foundation in its public service television and radio broadcasts for the Fall (81-82) season. Phil Simms of the New York Giants is featured in the spot.

Participating in the year's radio campaigns on over 4,000 radio stations nationwide were such celebrities as Burt Reynolds, Carroll O'Connor, David Brenner, Robert Merrill, Nancy Marchand, Polly Holliday, Howard Hesseman, Jamie Farr, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Tom

Brokaw, Louis Brodsky, Barbara Barrie, Conrad Bain, Howard Nelson, Pete Shaw, and Christine Stevens.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

In fiscal 1981, total combined unrestricted revenues of national headquarters and its affiliated chapters amounted to \$1,227,198, a 9% increase over fiscal 1980. Once again, this growth was made possible by the dedication and commitment of our volunteer network and the contributions of many individuals, foundations and corporations. Unrestricted program services expense increased 14% over 1980 from \$1,037,969 to \$1,188,467. This increase is due in large part to our continued expansion of research and human services.

We are very proud to report that of the total revenues in fiscal 1981, 86% was expended for our program services (including 58% for research), 12% was expended for management and general expenses and only 7% for fund raising expenses. The total of these percentages exceeds 100% due to the \$76,181 deficit resulting principally from the increase in research grants

awarded in fiscal 1981.

Total public support and revenues for fiscal year 1980 includes a \$630,000 restricted gift awarded to the Foundation to establish a professorship in ophthalmology for the study of retinal degenerations at Harvard University. In addition, research expenses for fiscal year 1980 include a \$700,000 grant awarded by the Foundation to establish this professorship.

The Board of Trustees has approved planned expenditures for support of awards and grants to research facilities and other specific research programs (in addition to the grant awarded to Harvard University in 1980) for the three years ending June 30, 1984 approximating \$3,100,000. Accordingly, the Board has designated the total unrestricted current fund balance of \$1,272,095 at June 30, 1981 for research purposes. It is expected that expenditures under these research programs will approximate \$1,000,000 for the

year ending June 30, 1982.

Our combined financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles for voluntary health and welfare organizations and have been audited by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., independent certified public accountants.

The Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation meets the standards of the National Information Bureau and the eligibility criteria set forth by the Office of Per-

sonnel Management for participation in the Combined Federal Campaign. The Foundation's programs continue to be recommended to the media by the Advertising Council, Inc.

The national headquarters budget is reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sallie W. Cushner

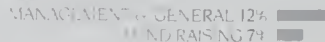
Sallie W. Cushner
Vice President and Treasurer

HOW YOUR DOLLAR WAS SPENT BY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND CHAPTERS IN FISCAL YEAR 1980-81

PROGRAM SERVICES



SUPPORTING SERVICES



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



NATIONAL SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION, INC. AND AFFILIATED CHAPTERS
Combined Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance
Year ended June 30, 1981 with comparative totals for 1980

	1981		Build and equipment fund	Total fund	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		1981	1980
Public support and revenue					
Public support					
Contributions received from individuals, corporations and foundations	\$ 628,912	\$ 133,371	\$ —	\$ 762,283	\$ 1,327,230
Special events, net of direct costs of \$269,864 in 1981 (\$232,255 in 1980)	435,636	—	—	435,636	393,693
Total public support	1,064,548	133,371	—	1,197,919	1,720,923
Grant from governmental agency	—	14,875	—	14,875	17,980
Interest income	162,650	39,251	—	201,901	191,162
Total public support and revenue	1,227,198	187,497	—	1,414,695	1,929,975
Expenses					
Program services					
Research	818,083	—	—	818,083	1,405,136
Public health education	261,223	11,979	2,938	276,139	303,040
Human services	109,161	21,052	588	130,802	98,202
Total program services	1,188,467	33,031	3,526	1,225,024	1,806,378
Supporting services					
Management and general	164,119	5,040	1,763	170,924	62,427
Fund raising	90,938	3,404	588	94,928	69,683
Total supporting services	255,057	8,444	2,351	265,852	232,130
Total expenses	1,443,524	41,475	5,877	1,490,876	2,040,538
Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses	(216,326)	146,022	(5,877)		
Other changes in fund balances—office furniture and equipment acquisitions from unrestricted current funds	16,438	—	6,438		
Fund balances at beginning of year	1,494,859	82,221	25,875		
Fund balances at end of year	\$1,272,095	\$ 228,243	\$26,436		

For a complete copy of the audited combined financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 1981, please write to the National office.

CHAPTERS

Affiliate Chapters

Alabama

Birmingham Chapter 3508 Nazha Ulrich
Birmingham AL 35243 205-967-0102
Mr Rick Dodd, President
Mobile Chapter 2351 North McVay Dr
Mobile AL 36605 205-478-5431
Ms Tissue Frost

Arizona

Greater Phoenix Tucson Chapter 6560 North
Scottsdale Rd Suite 1201 Scottsdale
AZ 85253 602-991-4910
Ms Barbara Feldman

California

Orange County Chapter 14839 Lakeview Rd
La Mirada CA 90638 714-521-3770
Mr Sam Miller, President
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter 1960 California St
San Francisco CA 94109 415-397-3400-Work
415-771-9352-Home
Mr Leslie Harris

Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter 30 Vinograd Dr
Easton CT 06042 203-374-1303
Mr Murray Klein, President

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Greater Washington Chapter 6021 Newland Dr
Dr Rockville MD 20852 301-881-3770
Dr Jack Gould, President

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Central Florida Chapter PO Box 1571 Longwood
FL 32750 305-862-0352
Mrs Janet Charney, President

Dade Broward Chapter 3703 N.E. 166th St
North Miami Beach FL 33160 305-947-3875
Mr Bill Edell, President
Lee-Collier 227 Cypress Way Naples FL 33949
813-597-4895
Mrs Rebecca Muzzacchi, President

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GA 30319 404-261-2376
Gail Handler, President

Illinois

Chicago Chapter 1011 South Waukegan LaGrange
IL 60525 312-354-4670
Mrs Ann Rasch, President

Indiana

Indianapolis Chapter 240 Vinewood Dr. New
White and IN 46184 317-535-8119
Mr Ed Sodin, President

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Eastern Kentucky Chapter 120 River Rd
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Louisville Chapter 8804 Marishe Dr
Louisville KY 40222 502-458-5303
Mr Bruce Besten, President

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New Orleans Chapter PO Box 73666 Metairie LA
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Mrs Ann Ashler, President

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Mrs Kathleen Tauler, President

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Mr John A Parker, President

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Mrs Lora Quinn, President

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Mrs Linda Kessler, President

Brooklyn Chapter PO Box 3569 Bayside NY
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Mrs Helen Davis, President

Long Island Chapter 11 Short Ct Roslyn NY 11576
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Mrs Eileen T. Nelson, President

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Station New York NY 10101 212-369-5344
Mr Arthur B. Rabender, President

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Piedmont Chapter 120 East Wendover Ave
Durham NC 27405 919-284-3731
Mrs Marilyn Green, President

Ohio

Greater Cleveland Chapter 12401 Oakview Blvd
Garfield Heights OH 44125 216-475-3095
Mrs Pat Smith, President

Pennsylvania

Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 3550 Rocky Lane
Easton PA 18042 215-252-0322
Mr Donald James, President

Greater Philadelphia Chapter 2033 East Arizona
St Philadelphia PA 19125 215-739-4042
Mrs Susan Carthy, President

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Chapter PO Box 114 Hope Valley
RI 02832 401-539-6431
Mr Anthony Velazquez, President

South Carolina

Blue Ridge Chapter 250 Lowndes Ave Greenville
SC 29607 803-232-2051
Gene McVain Ph.D. President



WHERE WE ARE LOCATED





National
Retinitis Pigmentosa
Foundation, Inc
8331 Mindale Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
301-655-1011
TDD-301-655-1190 (for deaf)

VISIONS

1 9 8 1



National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation

Human Services

The needs of individuals who suddenly discover that they are gradually losing their vision from degenerative diseases of the retina grow with every different daily encounter. The Foundation's Human Services program was developed to help these people to better deal with the difficulties which are unique to this group of progressive hereditary visual disorders.

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Volunteer Network

The RP Foundation has, through its 60 affiliate groups, mobilized a workforce of over 22,000 dedicated volunteers. The volunteers provide the energy, cooperation and strength for the special event fundraisers, the health fairs, the bike-a-thons and countless other RP events. At the same time, they provide morale and emotional support by acting as information and referral units for newly diagnosed people with retinitis pigmentosa, Usher's syndrome or macular degeneration.

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Volunteer Information Resource Centers (VIRC's):

Juneau, AK 907-586-2493	Niagara Falls, NY 716-284-6200
Muskegon, MI 205-381-1110	Trotwood, OH 513-854-2020
Fresno, CA W-209-486-1490 H-209-227-6036	Tulsa, OK 918-663-5555
Kanoeche, III 808-247-0970	Portland, OR 503-222-7483
Syracuse, KS 316-384-7430	Mechanicsburg, PA 717-761-4907
Millinocket, MI 207-723-4338	Pittsburgh, PA 412-923-1692
Grand Rapids, MI 616-784-9281	Fort Worth, TX 817-926-6953
Minneapolis, MN 612-338-0880	Casper, WY 307-234-2534
Black Eagle, MI 406-562-3542	

Grants

Center Grants:	1980-1981 Grants	1981-1982 Commitments
Institute of Ophthalmology, University of London, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, England	\$102,595	\$100,000
College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City, NY	\$ 65,451	\$ 87,000
Gullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Hermann Eye Center, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, TX	\$127,906	\$137,156
University of Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, Chicago, IL	\$ 32,837	\$ 40,000
Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth Univ., Richmond, VA	\$ 51,923	\$ 45,996
The Berman-Gund Laboratory for the Study of Retinal Degenerations at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA	\$110,373	\$131,146
The New York University Medical Center, New York, NY	\$ 84,100	\$ 43,823
The Wilmer Institute of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD	\$ 79,252	\$ 75,547
The Jules Stein Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	\$ 49,894	\$ 94,578
Other Activities:		
Annual Fair	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000
Scientific Workshop	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000
Career Development Award:		
Samuel G. Jacobson	\$ 32,674	\$ 43,700

Treasurer's Message

In fiscal 1981, total combined unrestricted revenue of national headquarters and its affiliated chapters amounted to \$1,237,198, a 9% increase over fiscal 1980. Unrestricted program services increased 14% over 1980 from \$1,035,969 to \$1,188,467 due to expansion of research and human services.

We are very proud to report that of the total revenues received in fiscal 1981, 86% was expended for our program services (including 58% for research, 12% was expended for management and general expenses, and only 4% for fund raising expenses). The total of these percentages exceeds 100% due to the \$76,181 deficit resulting principally from the increase in research grants awarded in fiscal 1981.

Total public support and revenues for fiscal year 1980 include a \$6,800 restricted gift awarded to the Foundation to establish a professorship in ophthalmology for the study of retinal degenerations at Harvard University. In addition

research expense for fiscal year 1980 include a \$6,800 grant awarded by the Foundation to establish a professorship.

The Board of Trustees has approved planned expenditures for support of award and grant to research facilities and other special research programs in addition to the grant awarded to Harvard University in 1980 for the three years ending June 30, 1984 approximating \$3,000,000. Accordingly, the Board has designated the total unrestricted current fund balance of \$1,372,091 at June 30, 1981 for research purposes. It is expected that expenditures under these research programs will approximate \$1,000,000 for the year ending June 30, 1982.

Sally W. Cochner
Vice President and Treasurer

NATIONAL RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA FOUNDATION, INC. AND AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Combined Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances Year ended June 30, 1981

Public support and revenue	1981		Building and equipment fund	Total all funds	
	Unrestricted	Restricted		1981	1980
Public support					
Contributions received from individuals, corporations and foundations	\$ 628,912	133,371		762,283	1,327,230
Special events, net of direct costs of \$269,804 in 1981 (\$232,255 in 1980)	435,636			435,636	393,663
Total public support	1,064,548	133,371		1,197,919	1,720,893
Grant from governmental agency		14,875		14,875	9,860
Interest income	162,630	39,251		201,901	191,162
Total public support and revenue	1,227,178	187,497		1,414,695	1,929,915
Expenses:					
Program services					
Research	818,083			818,083	1,405,136
Public health education	261,223	11,979	2,938	276,139	303,040
Human services	109,161	21,052	588	130,802	98,202
Total program services	1,188,467	33,031	3,526	1,225,024	1,806,378
Supporting services					
Management and general	164,119	5,640	1,763	171,522	169,427
Fund raising	90,938	3,404	548	94,928	67,663
Total supporting services	255,057	8,444	2,311	265,812	239,030
Total expenses	1,443,524	41,475	5,837	1,490,836	2,045,408
Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses	216,326	146,022	5,877		
Other changes in fund balances					
Equipment acquisitions from gifts	(6,438)		6,438		
Fund balances at beginning of year	1,494,889	82,221	25,875		
Fund balances at end of year	\$1,272,095	228,243	26,436		

For a complete copy of the audit report

Executive Director's Message

With this annual report, the RP Foundation begins its 11th year of operation. While most organizations arrive at such thresholds with triumph, ours, as might be expected, is a bittersweet distinction. We are proud of the distance we have come but disappointed that our quest for such difficult answers is still incomplete. Our initial zeal and enthusiasm for success has been replaced with a determined realization that continuing a methodical approach will work and our goals will be achieved!

During this past year, the Foundation's achievements include the following:

- A new Director of Development was hired to develop and expand a national fundraising effort for corporations and foundations.
- A Human Services Program which established new goals and dimensions and increased the national registry substantially.
- An extensive coordinated Public Awareness Program which reached an audience in excess of 140 million people during the past year.

No Executive Director's report would be complete without the appropriate word of thanks to the 22,000 volunteers working around the country, the national staff and field representatives who assist them and the National Board of Trustees.



Dennis E. Hartenstine
Executive Director

Message from the Board

While research into the workings of the eye have been ongoing for thousands of years, it is only within the last ten years that a formalized concentrated approach to retinal degenerative diseases has been instituted. With the formation of the National RP Foundation in 1971 and the dedication of the Berman-Gund lab in 1974, research specifically geared for this one family of blinding eye disorders began.

Ten short years, the field of research into retinal degenerative diseases has grown a hundredfold. The RP Foundation has been the driving force behind this growth. By providing direction and coordination through the leadership of its Scientific Advisory Board, an expanding series of research projects have been undertaken in an organized, focused approach—each subsequent project building on the success or failure of the previous one.

These individual investigative efforts have all been undertaken within the context of an extraordinary spirit of cooperation. Case information, medical histories, and results are all shared and discussed and evaluated in almost constant dialogue.

The Foundation's philosophy to provide "seed" money (initial investment capital) for promising research efforts has proven successful in triggering federal support through the National Eye Institute. Each dollar raised by the Foundation has actually produced additional dollars for retinal research.

Now with this report as we look back on the first ten years, we see major accomplishments:

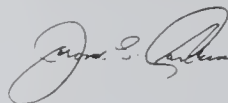
- a growth in the number of talented eye specialists who have dedicated their

work, their ideas and techniques to these problems.

- a revolution in the testing of individuals to diagnose retinal degenerative diseases
- a greater awareness of the number of people who are affected, the needs of these individuals and their ability to persevere.

Yet with these developments we are impatient with the rate of our progress—and we will remain impatient as long as hundreds of thousands of people continue to lose their vision to these insidious eye diseases.

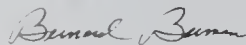
As we enter our second decade, our goal continues to be "the discovery of the cause, prevention and treatment of retinitis pigmentosa and other inherited degenerations." In order to achieve this goal, the Foundation must broaden substantially its sources of financial support. This is our commitment for the eighties.



Jerry Cardin
Chairman



Gordon Gund
Vice Chairman



Bernard Berman
President

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 502-458-5303

VISIONS 1981

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA FOUNDATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE, 1981

Vision: The act or power of
 imagination; mode of seeing or
 conceiving, unusual discernment
 foresight.

*There is only one international
 organization which has adopted as its
 mission the prevention and treatment
 of blinding retinal degenerative
 diseases and the hope of vision
 through vision.*

National RP Foundation
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